about 535,40 bags of Agmark Atta in 10 Kg. consumer packs have been supplied to Fair Price Shops for distribution to the consumers Monitoring arrangements have been made by the Delhi Administration regarding the supply and availability of commodities at the PDS outlets. The progress in the lifting of Atta would be reviewed and depending on the consumer preference, Delhi Administration would make arrangements for sale of wholemeal atta to consumers.

**Non-availability of quota to Fair price Shops**

435. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fair Price Shops under the Public Distribution System in Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and other places in the country have not received their full quota of essential commodities in time during the last few months causing thereby hardships to the consumers ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to ensure timely availability of Essential Commodities to consumers through Fair Price Shops in the country ; particularly in Delhi and Madhya Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) to (c) Allocations of PDS commodities are made by the Central Government to State Governments and UT Administrations in advance so that taey can make arrangements for lifting and distributing them. Many State Governments and UT Administrations, including Madhya Pradesh nd Delhi, lifted more quantity of a ce. wheat and levy sugar in 1991 as compared to 1990. PDS outlets in the country handle millions of tonnes of PDS commodities annually. However, in an operation of such a magnitude, occasional localised dislocations in the functioning of PDS cannot altogether be ruled out.

Regular monitoring of supply and availability of essential commodities under the PDS is done at various levels in the State Administrations, including Madhya Pradesh and Delhi. Action is also taken by them under the Essential Commodities Act against the malpractices detected. The State Governments and UT Administrations have been advised to set up Vigilance Committees at various levels, including village level.

**Special courts in States under the Essential Commodities Act**

436. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in some States, Special Courts have been constituted to try offenders booked under the Essential Commodities Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government have advised all the State Governments including that of Madhya Pradesh to set up Special Courts to deal with hoarders and profiteers in essential commodities ;

(d) if so, what is the response of each State Government in this regard ; and

(e) if answer to part (c) be in negative, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a), (b) and (d) The information is being collected from State Governments/U.T.

Administrations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (e) Most State Governments/U.Ts. including that of Madhya Pradesh, were advised, soon after the enactment of the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981, inter alia, to constitute Special Courts for trial of offences under the Act.

**Increasing the allocation of wheat quota to PDS**

437. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government have decided to increase the allocation of wheat quota to PDS in the Capital to mitigate the acute shortage of wheat supplies ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government have also decided to sell Atta (Flour) through Fair Price Shops in the Capital ; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY) : (a) and (b) The allocation of wheat to the Union Territory of Delhi since July, 1991 is given below :—

(in tonnes)

| Month | Quantity of wheat allotted |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
| July, 91 | 72000 |
| August, 91 | 72000 |
| September, 91 | 72000 |
| October, 91 | 72000 |
| November, 91. | 72000 |
| December, 91 | 64800 |
| January, 92 | 64800 |
| February, 92 | 72000 |
| March, 92 | 72000 |

(c) and (d) Delhi Administration has earmarked some quantity of wheat for conversion into wholemeal atta. This atta is distributed to consumers, through Fair Price Shops, as a part of the wheat quota, to provide a facility to consumers. It is priced at Rs. 38/- per bag of 10 Kg.

***Shortage of edible oil in Gujarat***

438. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat is facing acute shortage of edible oil ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the prices of edible oils have gone sky-high and middle-class people and the poor are suffering ;

(c) what is the requirement of Gujarat for edible oil per month at present ;

(d) how much quantity has been allotted and supplied to Gujarat by Central Government ; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to meet the full requirement of edible oil in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) As per available information edible oilseeds